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PROGRAM CBS Evening News

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SUBJECT Gun Smuggling Trial

DAN RATHER: Five Americans who admitted they tried to smuggle guns to Ireland for use by the IRA were acquitted today by a jury that believed the defendants worked for the CIA.

No direct evidence linking the CIA to the operation was ever presented to the jury in New York's Brookland Federal Court but one juror summed up the panel's belief that the CIA does many things to many places.

The intelligence agency repeatedly denied any involvement.

The defense had claimed the gun smuggling was sanctioned to keep the IRA from getting weapons from the Soviet Union.

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